

Legal Notice

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00153 issued to Sapphire Village Permit Holders (Sapphire Village). The Sapphire Village facility and associated disturbances are located on private land, approximately 2 miles west of Sapphire Village in Judith Basin County, in Section 23, Township 13 North, Range 11 East.

DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. DEQ is proposing a bond increase of \$7,028. (from \$15,742 to \$22,770). The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel price, additional disturbance area and indirect costs (mobilization, contingency, and administration).

The procedure for increasing bonds as a result of a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. The company and the public have until October 21, 2020 to comment on the proposed bond increase. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The company and any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by DEQ's final bond determination may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review by filing with DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination a written request for a hearing stating the reason for the request.

A copy of the bond calculation that forms the basis for the comprehensive bond review can be obtained by contacting the Department of Environmental Quality, Hard Rock Mining Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Herb Rolfes, Operating Permit Sections Supervisor, at (406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov.